(ख) यदि हां; तो क्या सरकार ने उसमें अन्तर्ग्रस्त विभागीय अधिकारियों/कर्मचारियों का पता लगाने के लिए जांच का आदेश दिया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो अब तक की गयी कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) से (घ) मामले की जांच की जा रही है और जांच के परिणाम के आधार पर कार्रवाई की जाएगी ।

Time gap between OB letters and installation of Telephone Connections

4492. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the average time gap between the issuing of OB letters and the actual provision of new telephone connections, since 1st January, 1994;

(b) whether there has been a gap of more than one year in many cases in this regard;

(c) the reasons for issuing OB letters when the DOT does not have the capacity to provide new telephone connections;

(d) whether this causes unnecesary harassment to the people; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, Telephone connections are normally provided within one month of issue of OB except in cases where the area is technically not feasible. However in the case of bulk release, OBs are issued in anticipation of the commissioning of the exchange and subscriber fittings are carried out in advance. Such telephones get energised on commissioning of the exchange.

(b) The number of cases where there has been a gap of more than one year after issue of OB are few.

(c) to (e) OBs are generally issued only when exchange capacity is available or likely to be available shortly. OBs are issued to all applicants covered under the release including those in technically non-feasible areas. However, of some cases are likely to be delayed due to areas being technically non-feasible the subscribers are informed accordingly, to avail any harassment.

Growth of telecommunication services in Urban and Rural Areas

4493. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications has formulated developmental activities for growth of telecommunication services in urban areas and taking the services to rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the activities; and

(c) what will be the resultant percentage growth of the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan (1992—97) of the Department of Telecommunications envisage:

— Provision of 75 lakhs new telephone connections

— All Gram Panchayats and additional 1,5 lakhs villages to have phone facility by 01-04-1997

— Provision of NSD facility to all exchanges

(c) The resultant growth of telephone connections per annum on an average over the 8th Five Year Plan period is likely to be more than 25 percent with respect to the number of telephones at the begining of the Plan.

Illegal telephone connections

4494. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "MTNL taken for a ride by captains", which appeared to the Business Standard of the 21st January, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the names of persons/companies involved in the illegal connections with non-metered lines;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the loss suffered by MTNL on account of this incident and if so, the details thereof and whether the said amount has been recovered from the persons/company concerned if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the involvement of officials of MTNL and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what action Government have taken so far against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of companies/individuals involved in the illegal connection with non-metered lines are as under:—

(i) M/s. Usha (India) Ltd.

(ii) Shri Girish Sarin

(iii) M/s. Appollo Tyres

(iv) Shri Bhupender Kumar

(v) Smt. Vibha Bhatia

(c) The loss has been estimated at Rs. 70.7 lakhs approximately, out of which Rs. 29.2 lakhs approx; have been realised due to sustained efforts of MTNL. Efforts are being made to realise the balance amount also.

(d) and (e) Assistance of CBI was sought to pinpoint the officials of MTNL involved. However, so far it has not been possible to identify the involved officials.

Introduction of EPABX in Apartments and Group Housing Societies

4495. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL, New Delhi has recently announced to introduce new EPABX system on high rise apartments and group housing societies;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed system;

(c) whether MTNL propose to assign the task to the private entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, to what extent it is going to clear the mounting wating lists for new telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Salient features of the Scheme are as under:

(1) Private parties will be authorised under a licence to install, maintain and operate Direct indialling Group EPABXs of sizes 128 to 1024P in multistoreyed buildings and Group Housing Societies.

(2) Junction lines to such EPABXs will be sanctioned on out of turn priority basis under NOYT general category. These junction lines will be charged 20 per cent additional rent.

(3) Extensions of these EPABXs can be provided to intending subscri-